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Senator Hancock Files Legislation to Recalculate State Spending Limit

SB 9 would strengthen cap on government spending with long-term fix

AUSTIN - Today, Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills), filed Senate Bill 9 to tighten the state spending cap formula, keeping future budgets in check.

"In Texas, fiscal responsibility isn't just a catch phrase, it's a mandate from the people," said Sen. Hancock. "While I fully expect we'll pass a conservative budget this session, this spending cap bill looks ahead to future Legislatures to provide permanent protection against sky-high government spending."

The state spending limit was originally adopted into the Texas constitution in 1978. It says that certain types of state spending cannot exceed the rate of growth of the overall economy. However, current law directs the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) to calculate Texas' economic growth rate using personal income growth statistics. Personal income typically grows at a faster rate than the overall economy, which means the spending limit as it currently stands is essentially a false boundary.

SB 9 directs the LBB to use a population times inflation formula when calculating the spending limit, rather than personal income. It also expands the base of funds, or types of spending, that must be included when calculating the limit.

This legislation is one of Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick's priority items for the 85th Legislative Session.

To read the full text of SB 9, visit [Texas Legislature Online](#).

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Senator Hancock represents [District 9](#), which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce.